Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources

University of Vermont

Perennial Summer Internship Program - 2016

Internship Title: Rubenstein School Greening & Forest Service Plant Physiology Field Research Intern

Internship Site: Aiken Center & RSENR Spear St. Research Lab, Burlington, VT & field sites in NH & VT

Description: Intern will work on green building feature maintenance and data collection for the Aiken Center. This will include working on the green roof, EcoMachine, solarium and recycling/composting projects in the building. After training the intern will be expected to give occasional green building tours of the Aiken Center to students and the general public. In addition, the intern will work on greening and efficiency enhancements for other Rubenstein facilities in the Burlington area (Johnson House, Rubenstein Ecosystem Sciences Laboratory, Bittersweet, and the Rubenstein/Forest Service building.) Intern will also work with faculty to quantify benefits of green building practices and determine monetary pay back periods for green building features.

Intern will assist in all aspects of ongoing research projects generally examining human impacts on forest ecosystems. This will include physiological measurements and maintenance of research plantings that are located both in the Burlington area and several other locations in Vermont. In addition, long-term experimental studies and natural forest ecosystems will be examined at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Station in New Hampshire. Intern will also help with site preparation for future experimental plantings at our Spear St. Laboratory location and at our Wolcott VT, research forest. The intern will also be expected to help with dendrochronology assessments of tree increment cores, preparation of plant tissue for analytical analysis and with plantation maintenance and measurements at our American chestnut restoration plantings.

Desired qualifications/skills/coursework: Experience interacting and working with members of the public, solid written and oral communication skills, capacity to work effectively with little supervision, basic understanding of green buildings and a willingness to learn new information quickly. Data manipulation, summary and analysis programs in Excel and JMP will be part of a desired skillset. While reliable transportation is helpful, flexibility and resourcefulness are key. Possession or access to a computer is essential to this position.

Ability to work in native forests and experience with field maintenance equipment such as weed whackers and mowers is desirable. Knowledge of laboratory procedures as well as experience in measuring trees and seedlings in controlled experiments and natural forest settings is valued. Ability to occasionally work long hours and to hike and navigate with GPS units in forest settings is also desirable. A high quality applicant will be able to lift 50 pounds and be available to work occasional evenings and weekends.

*Rubenstein students currently in their first year, sophomore and junior year are eligible to apply.*

Supervision: Intern will be supervised by Gary Hawley, RSENR Faculty and by PhD and MS graduate students.

Start and End Dates: Mid-May – Mid-August, 2016 (exact start/end dates are negotiable)
Total Hours: 40 hours/week, 12 weeks

Compensation: $12.50/hour. Earning internship credit through the Rubenstein School Internship Program is required.

How to apply: Step by step application instructions are available on the Rubenstein Perennial Internship Program website. Applications are due by 4pm, Friday, January 29th, 2016 through Blackboard.